

## **Greater Victoria hotels support Our Place Society's lunch program**

**Aug. 19, 2014, Victoria, BC** – Greater Victoria's hotels are supporting Our Place Society each month by donating funds to cover the cost of a nutritious lunch for close to 800 guests who depend on Our Place for a good meal each day.

The Hotel Association of Greater Victoria (HAGV) represents 48 hotels in the Greater Victoria region and donates funds regularly to support local events, festivals, educational scholarships and community outreach campaigns.

“Our Place has provided more than 400,000 meals alone this year, averaging 800 guests per day, a daunting number for any hotelier, “ says Reid James, HAGV chair and general manager of the Hotel Grand Pacific. “It was a natural fit for us to donate the funds to offset the cost of one lunch a month for a year. Food is such an important aspect of building a community and keeping people healthy. Our Place Society provides delicious and nutritious meals in a warm, friendly atmosphere which is what good hospitality is all about.”

In total, HAGV donated \$7,800 and HAGV members are welcome to have volunteers from each hotel member come in and help serve any of the monthly HAGV lunches. Supporting the launch of the HAGV – Our Place lunch program on Tuesday was the Swans Hotel team.

“Our Place's meal team does a phenomenal job of providing meals to so many people,” says Theresa Dickinson, General Manager, Swans Hotel & Brewpub. “When we realized that what they needed most was funds to afford the right ingredients for nutritious meals and volunteer support to help serve them, it was an easy decision for HAGV to make. Swans wanted to start it off in loving memory of Michael Williams, the founder of Swans, who always supported the homeless of Victoria.”

HAGV also hopes that other local businesses will take their lead and donate funds to help offset the costs of meals for Our Place Society members.

“Perhaps no one knows the high cost of food and nutritious ingredients than someone working in the hospitality, food and beverage industry,” says James. “We understand having the extra funds to enhance food that is donated can make a huge difference to the hundreds of meals served every day.”

### **About the Hotel Association of Greater Victoria**

The Hotel Association of Greater Victoria (HAGV) is a chapter of the BC Hotel Association based in Vancouver. The membership consists of 48 hotels and motels serving the Greater Victoria area.

### **About Our Place Society**

Our Place Society brings hope and belonging through a community centre serving the poor, disabled, and homeless of Greater Victoria. Our Place serves more than 800 guests per day Monday to Friday, provides a place for people to shower, get clean clothing, participate in

community programming, as well as gather and share a story with friends. Our Place also has forty-five transitional housing units for the hardest to house in our region.

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